AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A vaccine composition suitable for administration to a vertebrate host~~, including man,~~ which comprises:

(a) a polynucleotide vaccine component comprising at least one polynucleotide encoding at least one antigen, such that introduction of said formulation into said vertebrate host results in expression of a biologically effective amount of said antigen or antigens so as to induce a prophylactic or therapeutic immune response;

(b) a protein antigen vaccine component comprising at least one protein antigen selected from the group consisting of model protein antigens and vaccine protein antigens; and

(c) a mineral-based, negatively charged adjuvant.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The vaccine composition according to claim 1 wherein said mineral-based negatively charged adjuvant is an ~~aluminium~~aluminum salt or a calcium salt.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The vaccine composition according to claim 2 wherein said ~~aluminium~~aluminum or calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of ~~aluminium~~aluminum phosphate, ~~aluminium~~aluminum hydroxyphosphate, phosphate-treated ~~aluminium~~aluminum hydroxide, calcium phosphate, calcium hydroxyphosphate, and phosphate-treated calcium hydroxide.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The vaccine composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1 wherein said group of model protein antigens range from acidic IEP proteins to alkaline IEP proteins.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The vaccine composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1 wherein said group of vaccine protein antigens ~~includes~~ comprises a surface protein or a core protein of HBV, a de-toxified toxin from the bacteria *Clostridium tetani* (i.e. tetanus toxoid), a de-toxified toxin from the bacteria *Clostridium botulinus* (i.e. botulinus toxoid), and a de-toxified toxin from the bacteria *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* (i.e. diphtheria toxoid).

6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The vaccine composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1 wherein said group of vaccine protein antigens ~~includes~~ comprises protein antigens derived from inactivated poliovirus.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The vaccine composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein said mineral-based negatively charged adjuvant is preincubated or subsequently mixed with said at least one protein antigen vaccine component prior to being formulated with said polynucleotide vaccine component.

8. (Currently amended) A kit comprising a vaccine composition as defined in ~~any one of the claims 1-7~~claim 1 in a unit dose form for administration to a vertebrate recipient~~, including man~~.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Use of~~A method of using a mineral-based, negatively charged adjuvant as a component in a combined DNA/protein-based vaccine composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~claim 1.

10. 10. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 1, wherein the vertebrate host is a human host.

11. (New) The kit of claim 7, wherein the vertebrate host is a human host.